

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of March 10, 2009 issued with respect the present RCE application, the Applicant submits the following Remarks.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of pending independent claim 1, and claims 5, 12, 13, 17, 18, 21-31, 37-42, 44, 45 and 47-49 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by any one of more of Martin, Nozawa, Goldstein, Silverbrook, Rasmussen and Austin in view of newly cited Matsuzaki and Petterson, for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner contends that Matsuzaki discloses both "printhead hoses" and "reservoir hoses" and that "element 33" is a "coupling which disconnectedly couples the printhead hoses to the reservoir[sic] hoses". However, it is clear from col. 5, line 52-col. 6, line 7 and col. 9, line 62-col. 10, line 12 and Figs. 1, 2-5 and 7 of Matsuzaki that each one of the tubes 27-30,520 is a single tube directly connected between the head 1,100 and the ink tank 26,530, and that the coupling member 33,520a merely bundles these single tubes together.

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's contentions, Matsuzaki does not teach or suggest separate "printhead hoses" and "reservoir hoses" nor a "coupling which disconnectedly couples" such separate printhead and reservoir hoses.

Further, Petterson merely discloses self-sealing couplings in fluid systems and does not provide any disclosure which would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art have separate printhead and reservoir hoses in a combined printer of Matsuzaki and any of the other previously cited references.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

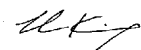
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